

Remarks

This Response to Office Action is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2005. Entry of this Response and reconsideration of the instant application in view thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-referenced Application. Claims 1-10 are rejected.

Claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended. Support for these amendments is found on page 4, lines 25-29 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her courtesy in an interview conducted on October 27, 2005, the contents of which are summarized in the Interview Summary.

Objection

Claim 4 is objected to because antecedent basis is had for the plural "unsaturated fatty acid esters" and not the singular "unsaturated fatty acid ester." In view of the above amendments, this objection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zuckert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,229,331). Applicants submit that Zuckert et al. neither teach nor disclose an aqueous composition having crosslinking groups selected from the group consisting of vinyl groups, acetoacetoxy groups, cyanoacetoxy groups, primary amine groups, and urea groups.

Zuckert et al. disclose a water-emulsifiable air-drying paint binder having a polyethylene glycol, a low molecular weight formaldehyde condensate of a mono (C₃ - C₉) alkyl phenol and/or aryl phenol, and a substantially hydroxy-free ester of unsaturated oil fatty acids and polyols. However, Zuckert et al. do not disclose a composition with crosslinking groups having vinyl groups, acetoacetoxy groups and cyanoacetoxy groups, primary amine groups, or urea groups, as required in the present claims. Thus, Applicants request this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bors et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,484,849). Applicants submit that Bors et al. neither teach nor disclose the claimed invention because Bors et al. do not teach the aqueous compositions of the present invention, having low VOC content.

As described in the specification, page 2, Bors et al. disclose an air curing polymer composition containing acetoacetate functional polymer and an autoxidizable material. The autoxidizable material provides a source of free radicals to cure and crosslink the acetoacetate functionality upon exposure to oxygen. The disclosed composition provides crosslinked films with improved properties, such as solvent resistance.

In Example 1H of Bors et al., a film was prepared from a composition including a latex containing polymer having acetoacetoxy groups, and ethyl linoleate as the autoxidizable material. The composition of Example 1H also contained VOCs, such as propylene glycol with a normal boiling point of 187 °C and diisopropyladipate with a normal boiling point of less than 290 °C. The level of VOCs in the composition of Example 1H was 7.6 weight %, based on the total weight of the composition. This level of VOCs would also be found in the other versions of Examples 1 and 2, as well as the other examples, as each was prepared with propylene glycol and diisopropyladipate. Bors et al. do not describe if, or even how, these VOCs could be removed from the resulting film. As such, Applicants request this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

This Paper is believed to be timely filed. If any fees are deemed required for consideration of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

November 10, 2005
Date

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